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Vol. 10, No. 2 • February/March 2005

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Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins

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(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

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POLLY TICKS...

Armstrong Williams - The Biggest Whore of All

Reprinted from:

The Black Commentator

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Armstrong Williams is "the premiere Black political whore in America," wrote Black Commentator Co-Publishers Glen Ford and Peter Gamble in their December 12, 2002 issue. In the interest of full disclosure, they revealed their particular grievance: that Williams had hopelessly polluted America's Black Forum (ABF), the first nationally syndicated Black news interview program on commercial television, created by Ford and Gamble in 1977. "Since the mid-Nineties," they wrote, "ABF has devolved into a menagerie of professional Black propagandists in service of the most vicious elements of the Republican Party. It is a bizarre experience." ABF had become "America's Black Right-wing Forum."

For a time, white right-wing columnist Pat Buchanan was a regular guest on ABF. So it came as little surprise that the program, which once generated weekly, worldwide headlines on the scale of *Meet the Press*, *Issues and Answers*, and *Face the Nation*, finally became just another brothel in Armstrong Williams' political red light district - a quickies venue for paying customers like Bush Education Secretary, Rod Paige.

Armstrong Williams' services were procured by written contract - an innovation in the political payola trade - which stipulated that "Mr. Williams shall utilize his long-term working relationships with 'America's Black Forum'... to encourage the producers to periodically address the No Child Left Behind Act [NCLB]," according to the New York Times. In return for \$240,000 in public funds, laundered as "advertising" fees, the contract required Williams to "regularly comment on NCLB during the course of his broadcasts" on his own TV show, *The Right Side*, and that "Secretary Paige and other department officials shall have the option of appearing from time to time as studio guests." Williams had no trouble arranging for Paige to appear on America's Black Forum, as well - a freebie for the big-spending Bush crew.

POLLY TICKS, continued from page 2

Williams' public promiscuity cost him dearly, causing Tribune Media Services to terminate syndication of his column to 50 newspapers, including *USA Today*, which broke the story on January 7. The watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) charges that the Department of Education contract with Williams "is in violation of the Publicity and Propaganda clause included in annual appropriations bills for decades." Congressional Democrats wrote a letter to President Bush. "Covert propaganda to influence public opinion is unethical and dangerous," they said.

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) called on the White House to "rebuke those in the Department of Education who used taxpayer dollars to pay off conservative commentator Armstrong Williams in an attempt to influence public opinion on administration policy."

"He's tainted fruit," said NABJ vice president for broadcast, Barbara Ciara. "And he's unfairly indicted all commentators who have their own independent opinion, don't need a script from the administration and don't need to be paid off."

But of course, Armstrong Williams has never been a journalist, nor has he ever uttered or written a word that could qualify as straightforward political commentary. Since 1979, when the 20-year-old signed on with his "mentor," South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond and, later, as an aide to Clarence Thomas, then chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Williams has been a right-wing political operative for hire – a specialty he turned into a lucrative business. As we reported back in 2002: "Williams' public relations firm, the Graham Williams Group, co-founded with Oprah boyfriend Stedman Graham, specializes in serving 'public policy organizations' – the institutional Right. He is the Hardest Working Man in Ho' Business."

Although the white Right is Williams' principal client, powerful Blacks are also to blame for inflicting him on the citizenry. Cathy Hughes, owner of 69-station-strong Radio One, gave Williams his first broadcast commentator slot in the mid-Eighties, back when her holdings consisted of just two stations, in Washington and Baltimore. In effect, Hughes credentialized Williams as a broadcast "journalist" two decades ago. Until last week's furor,

Hughes' TV One cable operation carried Williams' program, *On Point*, where Rod Paige appeared, last year. TV One CEO Johnathon Rodgers told the *Washington Post* he's pulled the show pending an "investigation," and that he knew nothing about Williams' contract with Paige's department. Williams claims he informed TV One about the deal.

To be of value to the white Right, Black mercenaries must appear to have some standing in the African American community. The Uniworld Grip, the current producers of *America's Black Forum*, gave Williams such a weekly platform. It is clear that Uniworld made a "strategic" decision in 1996 to position the program on the right. Armstrong Williams' presence on the show is a product – not the cause – of ABF's rightward turn. In the ABF environment created by Uniworld, Williams had no difficulty fulfilling his "contract."

A much larger crime

Although Williams richly deserves public exorcism, self-righteous journalists of all ethnicities and persuasions are missing the big story. Rod Paige's \$240,000 propaganda payment to Williams is puny compared to the tons of cash the Department of Education lavishes on organizations pushing school vouchers and privatization – more than \$75 million by the end of 2003, according to a report by People for the American Way. More than a year later, that figure has almost certainly passed the \$100 million mark in grants and "contracts" to groups whose mission is "to discredit the very concept of public education." Much of the work is pure propaganda, euphemistically dubbed "public education" on the "school choice" aspects of No Child Left Behind – the same mission Williams was contracted to perform. Among the multi-million dollar recipients is the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), the voucher front group created by the arch reactionary Bradley and Walton Family Foundations and now feeding at the public trough. Williams was a founding director of BAEO. Williams' \$240,000 contract was his cut from the Bush voucher bagman, Rod Paige. No wonder he has no intention of giving the money back.

In broadcasting especially, journalism is rapidly ceasing to exist. The Williams affair presents us with the spectacle of irate "journalists" who daily package propaganda in service to the powerful, bristling with indignation over a propagandist who gets paid directly by those same powers.

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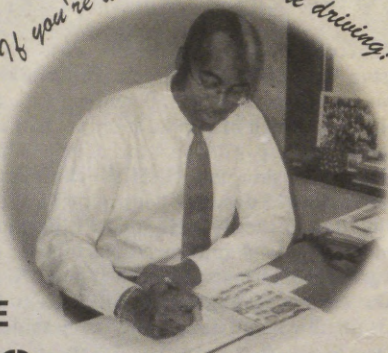
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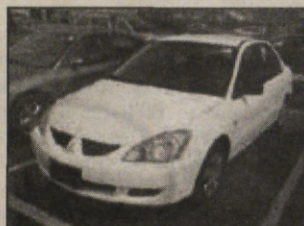
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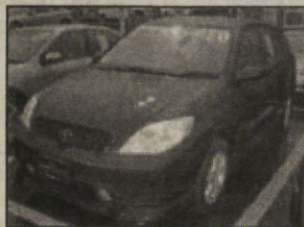
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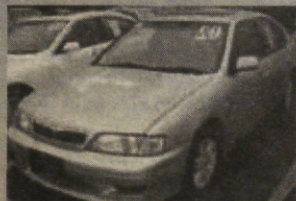
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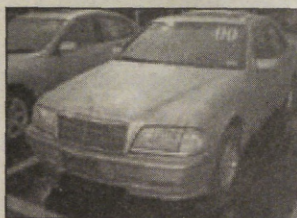
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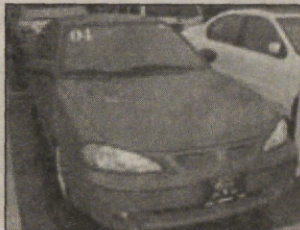
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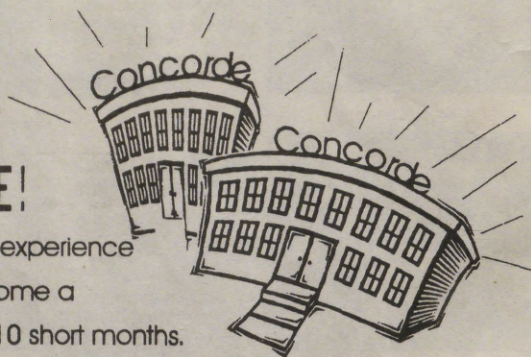
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▲ (above): Kashan Dodson, Jeffrey Dodson, Andrea Hayes, Curt Grayson (rear) Rasheedah Brooks, Marcia Robinson and Claude Craig.



▲ (above): Carla Wilson, vito Pontrelli, Mabelteen (Tula) Turkcer, Robert Tucker, Barbara Gilsenan (rear), Curt Grayson, Marcia Robinson and Claude Craig.

► Marcia Robinson, Larry Howell, Donnell Brown, Curt Grayson and Halim Nurullah help Craig celebrate his special day.



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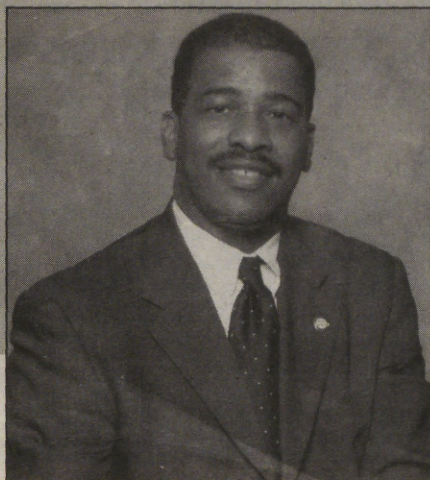
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Newark Police Resume Bicycle Patrols

Newark's Finest are putting the pedal to the metal to fight crime, hitting the streets in Harley-Davidson mountain bicycles. The department is re-instituting a bicycle patrol after 10 years, Mayor Sharpe James and Police Director Anthony F. Ambrose announced.

Operation "Rolling Thunder – The Second Edition," will be assigned to the NEST (Neighborhood Enforcement and Stabilization Task Force) and will target any activity that adversely affects the quality of life in our neighborhoods including loitering, gambling, and noise complaints. Ambrose said.

James said, "In trying to fight crime and maintain a high quality of life in the City of Newark, Police Director Anthony Ambrose has always sought new, creative, and cost-efficient initiatives. This bicycle patrol will bolster police presence in our neighborhoods while encouraging greater interaction between members of the department and the community. It will add to our levels of police mobility and community visibility. The Newark Police are on a roll."

Ambrose said, "The officers assigned to the unit represent another way to meet the concerns of the public, while conserving the taxpayers' dollars. The squad's deployment will increase our police presence throughout the entire City. In addition to increasing visibility, officers patrolling on bike are more mobile than they would be with a foot patrol and can effectively cover more ground."

Chief of Police Irving Bradley said, "Many of the participants are already seasoned bicyclists, although each officer must successfully complete the Internal Police Mountain Bike Associate Police Cyclist Course or its equivalent. Training will include lectures on bicycle helmet skills, riding techniques and hands-on skills in order to ensure safe proper operation of the bicycle while performing their police related functions."

Bradley recalled, "When I was growing up, police officers used to frequently patrol an area by getting out

of their cars and talking to the people in the neighborhoods. I think the community will embrace this new program that brings the police closer to the residents they serve."

Police officials noted the bicycle squad that hit the streets in January will operate year-round with the option to utilize a walking patrol or a police vehicle during extremely inclement weather.

Newark's bike squad last bicycle squad was introduced in the early 90's and was designed as a summer pilot program to increase the visibility of police officers in the parks and in drug-infested areas.

The new squad members will ride new 21-speed



pictured above:

▲ Police Director Ambrose and Police Chief Irving Bradley.

mountain bikes manufactured by Harley Davidson. These particular bikes were chosen for their durability and the ability to enable the rider to easily and effectively adjust to various types of terrain.

The Tsunami Disaster

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Bro. Minister, Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Bro. Captain Arthur Muhammad.



Mrs. Christine Malanga, Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Homeland Security Director Rocco Malanga;



The Barbers from Untouchables on Bloomfield Ave., Newark;



Clifford Minor, Attorney-At-Law, Councilman-At-Large, Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Thomas Ashley, Attorney-At-Law.



Shelia T. Bynes, Exec. Dir of NESF, Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Maria Vizcarronda-DeSoto, Exec. Direc. of United Way;

Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Honorable Judge Roslyn Grant;



Brenda Jones, Jacqueline Shanks, Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins and Stacy Hillsman;



Mr. Many Rosa, Realtor, and Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins;



Mr. Richard Glasskans, Exec. Dir. Integrity House, Councilwoman-At-Large Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Mr. Charles Cummings, Newark Historial, Newark Public Library.

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PHOTOS BY HERB GLENN



Shirley Ceaser — Home for the Holidays

PHOTOS BY HERB GLENN

The first lady of Gospel recently gave the city of Newark a special gift for the holidays...



Speaking of NUD

NUD stands for Non Urban Dictate. These three words essentially mean that a company is not interested in the Black consumer. Companies evade discrimination liability by embracing it as theory rather than policy. As a service to Black consumers, the Black Mirror News will list all companies that have a NUD policy. Armed with this information, we feel that Black consumers will be able to make informed buying decisions.

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Falling LEAVES

**ARTIE SHAW –
Big Band Star**

Artie Shaw whose recording of “Begin the Beguine” epitomized the Big Band era, plays the clarinet in this September 1941 file photo.



**SHIRLEY CHISLOM –
Political Leader**

Shirley Chislom, the first black woman elected to Congress and an outspoken advocate for women and minorities during seven terms in the House, passed away recently, she was 80.

“She was our Moses that opened the Red Sea for us,” Robert E. Williams, president of the NAACP in Flagler County, said.



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AFTER HOURS

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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER– Our staff and all of our advertisers wish you the best for 2005!

Vocalist Denise Hamilton one of the best in the East (and the West) – smiles. Denise their place as a musician representative when something happens to any of them... The Green Holiday greeting was a blessing from Assemblyman William D. Payne, of the 29th District (NJ)... The new Tabu Lounge opens every Thursday, and its great for the 25 and up crowd – they're at 433-439 Central Ave in Newark... Holiday greetings also, from Della Moses Walker, the Weichert real estate lady – smiles... Its rumored on the grapevine that Mayor Sharpe James' B-Day party will be an \$500. admission – smiles... Billie Jean Young's luncheon theme, *40 Years Later: Power & Privilege, Beyond the Vote*. Her one woman performance was entitled "Songs and Words of Fannie Lou Hammer" at the City University in New Jersey... Ariella of Crystal Clear Images Hair Salon has been checking with the City Council of Newark about the curfew opening and closing of beauty and barber shops in Newark... Did you receive a Xmas card from Cory Booker and staff?... Carletta B. Mitchell back from Africa and has promised our

paper photos and descriptions of the sights and folks on the trip. She's one of the officers in The Northern NJ Black Nurses Association... You know, the elders must teach the young about the Black history struggle that has given them all of the opportunities they now have. Many of the things they do and have now didn't "just happen" before Irvine I. Turner or Martin Luther King... I bet the folks in the West Ward didn't realize how good they had it when Hank Martinez was councilman for the city of Newark... We hope Milton Curtis Battle of MetroWorld Productions is again well and on his feet... also send your get-well cards or messages of cheer to our former Mayor Kenneth Gibson who is now home after a major operation... Harry Robinson (NHA) is also at home recovering from a major operation.

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BIOGRAPHY -

Anthony C. Mack was born and raised in Newark's North Ward (at the time known as the 4th Ward). He is a graduate of Bloomfield Technical High School. He received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law Newark.

Mr. Mack is a former staff attorney with Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division in Manhattan. There he represented indigent defendants in a wide variety of criminal matters. Mr. Mack is now in private practice with offices in Newark and in Manhattan. He specializes in criminal defense, personal injury and civil rights litigation.

Mr. Mack currently serves as counsel to several activist organizations such as the People's Organization for Progress. Mr. Mack also served as lead counsel in the 1998 Million Youth March criminal trial in New York County Supreme Court.

Some of Mr. Mack's notable current clients are Sammy "The Bull" Gravano and the Estate of Jose Luis Ives, Jr. (the 17 year old who was slain in July of 2003 by a Weehawken police officer).

Mr. Mack has also served as a legal correspondent on various radio shows on WLIB, WBLS & The Open Line on Kiss-FM.

Mr. Mack credits his wide range of experiences as an adolescent and young man in the City of Newark, to give him a personal view of the many plights that affect his clients.

He also credits his hard work ethic, which is the basis of his accomplishments to date, to his mother who is now deceased but worked as a housekeeper in South Orange when he was growing up.

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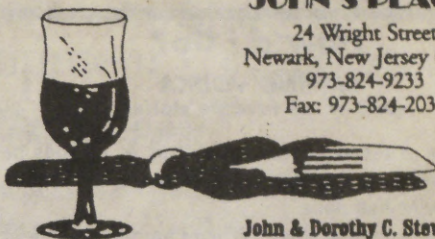
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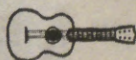
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A new priest at his first mass was so nervous he could hardly speak. After mass he asked the monsignor how he had done.

The monsignor replied, "When I am worried about getting nervous on the pulpit, I put a glass of vodka next to the water glass. If I start to get nervous, I take a sip."

So next Sunday he took the monsignor's advice.

At the beginning of the sermon, he got nervous and took a drink. He proceeded to talk up a storm.

Upon his return to his office after the mass, he found the following note on the door:

- 1) Sip the vodka, don't gulp.
- 2) There are 10 commandments, not 12.
- 3) There are 12 disciples, not 10.
- 4) Jesus was consecrated, not constipated.
- 5) Jacob wagered his donkey, he did not bet his ass.

- 6) We do not refer to Jesus Christ as the late J.C.
- 7) The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not referred to as Daddy, Junior and the spook.
- 8) David slew Goliath, he did not kick the shit out of him.
- 9) When David was hit by a rock and was knocked off his donkey, don't say he was stoned off his ass.
- 10) We do not refer to the cross as the "Big T."
- 11) When Jesus broke the bread at the last supper he said, "take this and eat it for it is my body." He did not say "Eat me"
- 12) The Virgin Mary is not called "Mary with the Cherry."
- 13) The recommended grace before a meal is not: Rub-A-Dub-Dub thanks for the grub, Yeah God.
- 14) Next Sunday there will be a taffy pulling contest at St. Peter's not a peter pulling contest at St. Taffy's.

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